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Missouri's Labor Market Conditions Held Steady in July

Missouri's unemployment rate edged down in July by a tenth of a point to 5.6 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis. The rate is a tenth of a point lower than it was a year ago and marks the first decrease in seasonally adjusted unemployment since February. It also remains over a half percent lower than the national unemployment rate of 6.2 percent.

Approximately 165,700 Missourians were estimated to have been jobless in July. The state's unadjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.8 percent, compared to a 6.3 percent unadjusted rate at the national level.

"We are pleased to see our unemployment rate consistently running well below the national rate, which we see as an indication that Missouri's business climate is improving and economic growth is occurring," said Joseph L. Driskill, DED director. "The decline in our labor force is due primarily to seasonal reductions in school employment. In fact, Missouri actually increased private sector employment in July."

Non-farm payroll employment decreased by 39,600 from June to 2,634,900, seasonally adjusted, as payrolls at schools and colleges fell after the end of the spring semester. Private educational and health services employment was down by 4,700, while government employment fell by 40,100. Decreased employment at schools and colleges is the norm for the summer, but the exact timing varies from year to year. Swings of the magnitude of this month's changes heavily affect the total non-farm payroll employment figure as well.

Employment in other private industries increased over the month by 5,200 jobs. Leisure and hospitality industries reported the greatest gain at 7,600 jobs. Manufacturing, construction, and services other than educational and health services had small increases in July. Employment was down in trade, transportation and utilities (-2,500 jobs), information (-1,400 jobs), and financial activities (-600 jobs.)

Over-the-year employment losses continue to get smaller. Between July 2002 and July 2003, payroll employment decreased by 12,700 jobs, or 0.5 percent. Not seasonally adjusted data are used in these comparisons to provide more industry detail. As in the over-the-month changes, educational employment played a large role. Employment at private colleges and universities is down by 3,100 from July 2002. State government employment, including state colleges and universities, is down by 2,500.

Air transportation experienced another reduction in July of 1,000 jobs. This brings the decrease over the past year to 5,600, or nearly half the sector's July 2002 employment. Retail trade employment is down by 4,200 jobs from July 2002, while administrative and support services decreased by 5,900. Employment has dropped by 2,600 in telecommunications and 2,200 in financial activities.

These losses have been partly offset by over-the-year gains in other industries. Manufacturing employment is up by 2,800 jobs; accounting services gained 1,000 jobs; management of companies added 1,100; educational services added 3,500 jobs; health care and social assistance added 3,100; food services and drinking places added 4,700; and religious, grant-making, civic and professional organizations gained 5,600 jobs.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (JULY 2003), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (MAY AND JUNE 2003), AND YEAR AGO (JULY 2002)

	JUL 2003	JUN 2003	MAY 2003	JUL 2002		JUL 2003	JUN 2003	MAY 2003	JUL 2002
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	6.3	6.5	5.8	5.9	Atchison	4.6	3.8	3.0	4.0
MISSOURI	5.8	5.8	4.9	5.8	Audrain	6.5	6.1	5.5	5.8
ST. LOUIS MSA	6.2	6.3	5.3	6.5	Barton	4.5	4.8	3.8	3.7
Franklin	6.3	6.3	4.9	8.7	Bates	8.0	7.5	5.9	7.5
Jefferson	5.4	5.8	4.9	7.4	Benton	7.6	6.9	6.2	6.9
Lincoln	6.6	6.4	5.4	6.2	Caldwell	9.1	7.9	7.1	8.6
St. Charles	4.5	4.4	3.5	4.5	Carroll	5.7	5.3	5.0	6.0
St. Louis County	5.1	5.3	4.6	5.3	Cedar	8.3	7.7	7.2	6.1
Warren	6.8	6.7	5.8	5.8	Chariton	7.7	6.0	4.8	10.0
St. Louis City	10.5	10.6	9.2	10.1	Clark	10.4	6.4	6.4	8.2
KANSAS CITY MSA	5.9	6.0	5.4	6.0	Cooper	3.8	3.8	3.1	4.0
Cass	5.4	5.5	4.2	4.6	Crawford	7.2	7.3	6.6	7.4
Clay	4.8	4.6	4.1	4.4	Dade	5.5	5.4	4.1	5.2
Clinton	5.6	5.1	4.0	6.3	Dallas	6.7	6.4	5.6	6.7
Jackson	6.9	7.0	6.0	6.5	Daviess	7.1	6.1	5.5	6.2
Lafayette	6.2	6.0	4.8	5.9	DeKalb	6.4	6.1	4.2	5.3
Platte	4.3	4.4	3.6	4.1	Dent	7.0	6.6	5.4	6.6
Ray	7.0	6.7	5.0	7.1	Douglas	8.1	7.7	7.0	10.9
SPRINGFIELD MSA	3.9	3.9	3.3	4.5	Dunklin	8.9	8.5	7.4	7.7
Christian	4.4	4.2	3.6	4.5	Gasconade	8.0	5.9	5.5	8.2
Greene	3.8	3.8	3.2	4.3	Gentry	3.8	3.2	3.1	4.5
Webster	4.6	4.4	3.7	5.9	Grundy	5.8	6.1	5.0	4.3
JOPLIN MSA	5.9	5.8	5.0	5.9	Harrison	3.9	4.1	3.7	4.7
Jasper	5.2	5.5	4.8	5.1	Henry	8.1	8.3	7.4	5.7
Newton	7.1	6.5	5.5	7.4	Hickory	11.8	9.9	8.3	8.0
COLUMBIA MSA	2.7	2.5	1.9	2.5	Holt	6.0	5.6	5.1	4.6
Boone	2.7	2.5	1.9	2.5	Howard	4.8	4.5	3.6	5.9
ST. JOSEPH MSA	5.5	5.6	5.0	5.4	Iron	8.6	8.9	8.3	9.9
Andrew	4.7	4.7	4.2	4.6	Johnson	4.2	4.2	3.5	4.3
Buchanan	5.6	5.8	5.2	5.6	Knox	4.2	4.4	3.6	4.0
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	5.1	3.9	3.0	3.5	Laclede	10.3	10.7	9.8	6.3
Adair	4.8	3.7	2.9	3.3	Lewis	5.3	4.8	4.6	4.3
Schuyler	7.0	5.2	4.0	5.2	Linn	12.9	9.5	6.0	13.0
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	6.6	6.1	5.0	6.4	Livingston	4.7	4.5	4.1	4.0
Butler	5.8	5.4	4.6	5.7	McDonald	6.6	6.6	6.0	6.7
Carter	7.9	7.0	6.0	9.0	Macon	6.3	5.2	4.2	7.4
Ripley	8.6	8.3	6.4	7.6	Madison	8.4	8.2	7.3	9.6
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	4.4	4.8	4.5	5.0	Mercer	4.9	5.6	5.6	4.1
Camden	4.1	4.4	4.4	4.3	Monroe	8.8	7.1	6.2	7.6
Miller	4.9	5.3	4.6	5.9	Montgomery	7.6	6.7	5.9	6.2
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	5.8	5.9	5.1	5.7	Morgan	5.7	5.8	5.3	6.2
Bollinger	6.7	7.1	6.2	6.4	Nodaway	2.8	2.1	1.9	3.0
Cape Girardeau	4.0	4.1	3.8	4.0	Ozark	4.8	4.3	4.2	5.8
Mississippi	8.2	8.5	6.2	7.9	Pemiscot	11.7	11.9	10.4	10.3
New Madrid	11.3	11.0	9.4	11.2	Perry	3.4	3.9	3.1	4.0
Scott	5.9	5.9	5.2	5.9	Pettis	6.9	6.9	4.8	6.5
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	4.0	3.9	3.0	4.3	Pike	5.3	5.0	4.4	5.5
Callaway	4.2	4.1	3.4	4.1	Polk	6.3	5.9	4.8	5.4
Cole	3.7	3.6	2.7	3.8	Pulaski	4.6	4.8	4.1	4.8
Moniteau	3.3	3.4	3.2	4.7	Putnam	5.9	5.7	6.0	3.6
Osage	5.5	5.2	3.9	6.7	Randolph	8.5	5.8	4.6	7.5
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	5.9	6.2	5.1	4.6	Reynolds	10.3	9.1	8.7	7.6
Howell	5.9	6.2	5.1	4.5	St. Clair	8.3	8.2	7.0	6.8
Oregon	5.4	5.4	4.0	4.9	Ste. Genevieve	5.9	6.1	5.0	6.4
Shannon	6.3	6.6	6.2	5.0	Saline	5.8	5.7	4.8	6.4
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	5.0	5.0	4.4	5.1	Scotland	4.6	3.9	4.2	4.7
Barry	4.9	4.8	4.2	4.8	Shelby	4.6	4.9	4.4	4.8
Lawrence	5.1	5.2	4.6	5.4	Stoddard	7.1	6.6	5.5	7.4
MARION-RALLS LMA	6.8	5.8	5.3	6.3	Stone	6.0	6.4	6.7	5.8
Marion	7.0	6.1	5.3	6.4	Sullivan	9.1	9.6	9.2	3.5
Ralls	6.4	5.2	5.4	6.0	Taney	4.0	4.6	4.9	4.3
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	3.6	3.7	2.9	3.9	Texas	9.0	8.9	7.6	6.9
Maries	4.5	4.7	3.2	6.7	Vernon	5.3	5.2	4.3	6.5
Phelps	3.4	3.4	2.8	3.3	Wayne	10.9	11.2	10.3	11.6
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	8.8	8.4	7.5	9.8	Worth	6.0	6.3	4.7	7.2
St. Francois	8.4	7.8	7.1	9.1	Wright	7.6	7.7	7.0	8.8
Washington	9.8	9.7	8.6	11.4					

NOTE: Data for counties within MSAs/LMAs are disaggregated from MSA/LMA totals. Substate data for 2002 have been revised but are provisional: not yet official and subject to change.

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